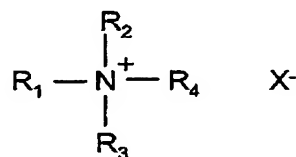


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 Serial No.: 10/537,556
 Art Unit: 1621
 Response to Office Action of 1/12/2007

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1.(Currently Amended) A quaternary ammonium composition consisting essentially of

a) a cationic compound with general formula:



wherein R_1 is C_8 - C_{22} -alkyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkenyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkylamidopropyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkenyl-amidopropyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkyl/alkenyl(poly)alkoxyalkyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkanoylethyl or C_8 - C_{22} -alkenoylethyl, $[[R_2, R_3 \text{ and } R_4]]$ R_2 and R_3 are C_1 - C_{22} -alkyl, C_2 - C_{22} -alkenyl $[[\text{or}]]$ and R_4 is a group of the formula $-A-(OA)_n-OH$, A is $-C_2H_4-$ and/or $-C_3H_6-$, n is a number from 0 to 20 and X is an anion,

b) less than 20 % by weight of water based on said composition and

c) a non-ionic solvent selected from the group consisting of an alcohol or an ethoxylated alcohol with the general formula $R-O-(AO)_nH$, where R is alkyl or alkenyl group containing 8 to 22 carbon atoms, A is C_2H_4 or C_3H_6 and mixtures thereof, and n is a number from 0 to 20, nonylphenol or ethoxylated nonylphenol with the general formula C_9H_{19} -phenyl- $O-(AO)_nH$, where A and n are as defined above, and mixtures thereof.

2.(Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, which contains 5 to 60 % by weight of the cationic compound a).

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3.(Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the cationic compound a) is an C₈-C₂₂-alkyl or C₈-C₂₂-alkenyl-dimethyl-hydroxyethyl ammonium.

4.(Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, which has 40 to 95 % by weight of the non-ionic solvent c).

5.(Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, which has less than 5% of by-products.

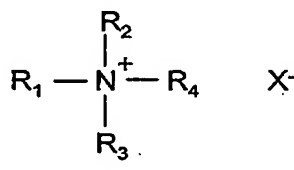
6.(Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, which the non-ionic solvent is selected from the group consisting of an ethoxylated fatty alcohol, a fatty alcohol, a polyethylene glycol, a polypropylene glycol, a block co-polymer of ethylene and propylene, a nonylphenol, [[a]] an ethoxylated nonylphenol, and a mixture thereof.

7.(Canceled)

8.(Currently Amended) A process for preparing a composition as claimed in claim 1

a quaternary ammonium composition consisting essentially of

a) a cationic compound with general formula:



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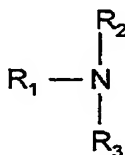
wherein R_1 is C_8 - C_{22} -alkyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkenyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkylamidopropyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkenyl-amidopropyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkyl/alkenyl(poly)alkoxyalkyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkanoylethyl or C_8 - C_{22} -alkenoylethyl, R_2 and R_3 are C_1 - C_{22} -alkyl, C_2 - C_{22} -alkenyl, R_4 is a group of the formula $-A-(OA)_nOH$ wherein A is $-C_2H_4-$ or $-C_3H_6-$, or a mixture thereof, n is a number from 0 to 20 and X is an anion,

- b) less than 20 % by weight of water based on said composition and
 c) a non-ionic solvent selected from the group consisting of an alcohol or an ethoxylated alcohol with the general formula $R-O-(AO)_nH$, where R is alkyl or alkenyl group containing 8 to 22 carbon atoms, A is C_2H_4 or C_3H_6 and mixtures thereof, and n is a number from 0 to 20, nonylphenol or ethoxylated nonylphenol with the general formula C_9H_{19} -phenyl- $O-(AO)_nH$, where A and n are as defined above, and mixtures thereof,

wherein R_4 in the cationic compound a) is defined as a group of the formula $-A-(OA)_nOH$ wherein A is $-C_2H_4-$ or $-C_3H_6-$, or a mixture thereof, and n is a number from 0 to 20

said process comprising:

reacting an amine of the formula



wherein R_1 is C_8 - C_{22} -alkyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkenyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkylamidopropyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkenyl-amidopropyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkyl/alkenyl(poly)alkoxyalkyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkanoylethyl or C_8 - C_{22} -alkenoylethyl, R_2 and R_3 are C_1 - C_{22} -alkyl, C_2 - C_{22} -alkenyl or a group of the formula $-A-$

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(OA)_n-OH, wherein A is -C₂H₄- or -C₃H₆-, or a mixture thereof, and n is a number from 0 to 20 with an inorganic monohalo acid and then reacting the ammonium salt thus obtained with ethylene oxide and/or or propylene oxide or a mixture thereof.

9.(Currently Amended) The process of claim [[7]] 8, wherein the amine is C₈-C₂₂-alkyl or C₈-C₂₂-alkenyl-dimethyl amine, or mixtures thereof.

10.(Previously Presented) The process of claim 8, wherein the monohalo acid is aqueous, hydrochloric acid.

11.(Previously Presented) The process of claim 8, wherein the ammonium salt is reacted with ethylene oxide.

12.(Previously Presented) The process of claim 8, wherein the non ionic solvent is a C₁₂/C₁₄/C₁₆ alcohol polyglycol having 7 EO units.

13.(Previously Presented) The process of claim 8, wherein the first step is proceed in a temperature between 20 and 100°C.

14.(Previously Presented) The process of claim 8, wherein the second step is proceeded in a temperature between 40 and 100°C.

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15.(Previously Presented) The process of claim 8, wherein the amine is C₈-C₂₂-alkyl or C₈-C₂₂-alkenyl-dimethyl amine, or mixtures thereof.

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